

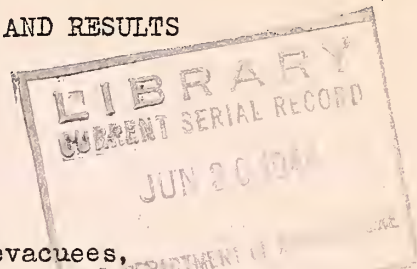
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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

Navaho Indians, Mexican national, Japanese evacuees,
German war prisoners work with sheep and beets.
State home food supply program has 218,250 families enrolled.
Farmers from flooded bottom lands help out farmers in hills.
Capitol Milk Production Program promoted by State steering
committee.
Farmers encouraged to increase acreage of soybeans for oil.
Negro farmers give hogs early treatment to prevent cholera.

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TENNESSEE June 10, 1944

Farm labor.- Tennessee farmers are making good progress in farm work in spite of late seasons and wartime handicaps of short labor, machinery, and other materials. Most important job of county agricultural agents and home demonstration agents, as well as emergency assistant agents in food production and conservation and farm labor, is to aid and encourage farmers and farm women in production and conservation of maximum amount of food. This includes labor arrangements in many sections to help in food production. Farm labor is being recruited through schools, churches, and other organizations. Every available laborer is being used during spring planting and harvesting of strawberries, peas, and hay. More farmers are swapping work and machinery than ever before. Townspeople, boys, and girls are also helping out.

For strawberry picking in Sumner County, over 3,000 extra workers were recruited from 6 adjoining counties. They were mostly school children, town and city women, and were brought in by busloads.

In Dyer County, when floods on Mississippi River made work impossible in bottoms, more than 200 people organized labor brigade to help out hill farmers, who agreed to repay work later when water receded. Bottom farmers also made available 84 tractors and 138 mules.

Approximately 90 4-H Club boys and girls from 6 middle Tennessee counties spent one week in camp at Portland, helping farmers harvest strawberry crop. They were supervised by county and home agents. These boys and girls were placed with 33 growers for total of 497 farm placements. Group was instrumental in helping

smaller strawberry growers harvest crops, since it is difficult to get truckers to split large loads of pickers.

In Davidson County, 33 nonfarm boys offered services and worked at harvesting small grain, picking raspberries and peas, setting sweetpotatoes, and thinning corn. Assistant agent in Davidson County arranged for 146 nonfarm boys and girls to help local trucker harvest turnip greens. In several middle Tennessee counties vocational teachers held training schools to teach boys farm work. In Sumner County 5 boys were placed on farms as "live-ins," and more were expected to be placed.

Food production.- Farm people are making earnest effort to comply with Government's appeal for increased food production. Extension agents and assistants are helping them in every way possible. Emergency assistant agents in war food production and conservation now number 13 white and 15 negro. They work under supervision of county and home agents to encourage farmers to plan farming operations and soil treatments to insure production of food with minimum amount of labor. Farmers have been urged to use improved seeds and more fertilizer. Machinery and equipment repair schools, held in virtually every county in State, were well attended. Schools were held in winter when farmers had spare time to get machinery in condition for rush season.

Food preservation.- Pressure-cooker clinics are being held all over State, and farm women are assisted in preparation of foods for canning. Canning centers are being set up in many areas. Home demonstration agents work with leaders in these centers to make canning facilities available to as many farm families as possible.

Home food supply.- Tennessee Home Food Supply program has 218,250 families enrolled. Total of 182,230 city and town families are growing Victory Gardens to produce, on limited space available, as much as they can of food needed, both to use as fresh vegetables and to can and preserve for later consumption.

In 4-H Clubs emphasis has been placed this year on food production projects. Approximate enrollment is 84,480 boys and girls including both white and negro.

VIRGINIA
June 1, 1944

Farm labor.- Certificates have been submitted for prisoners of war, and Army has inspected certain sites. Fruit growers near Camp Pickett are using prisoners of war satisfactorily for thinning out peaches.

About 300 Bahamians are now working in State, mostly in trucking area. More are expected for potato harvest. Nine labor camps are located in four trucking counties.

Fruit growers and State farm labor representatives have looked into possibilities of getting labor from mountain counties in Virginia and Kentucky for fruit harvest. Apparently some mountain workers can be obtained, largely women and youth.

School people have been busy for several months recruiting high-school youth in cities for farm work as "live-ins." Farmers have ordered more youth than have been recruited. Tentative programs have been set up in Danville, Lynchburg, Richmond, and Roanoke for recruitment of city people, both adults and youth.

Information station is operating on 24-hour basis at Little Creek Ferry near Norfolk to assist Atlantic Coast migratory workers in locating work. Interviewers help direct migrants to places of greatest need in Virginia and nearby States.

Vegetable Gardening.- Commercial vegetable areas of State had late start because of extremely wet spring. Stands of Irish potatoes and other vegetable crops are poor, particularly in Norfolk area. After planting was completed, area experienced severe drought, which considerably reduced yield of potatoes in Norfolk and Eastern Shore areas. Snapbeans, tomatoes, and other truck crops are seriously delayed in maturing. Home gardens, also affected, are beginning to pick up.

Vegetable specialists held meetings with garden leaders of home demonstration clubs in 44 counties. Total of 432 leaders attended, representing club membership of approximately 8,600. More of such meetings are planned. In 16 counties, meetings were held with county home and farm agents, who were given responsibility for carrying information back to county people.

At 20 meetings of tomato growers total attendance was 449. Purchase program for canning tomatoes and cultural practices to increase yields per acre were discussed.

Dairying.- Steering committee is handling 8-point Milk Production Program. Information on dairy cattle feeding and growing of crops for dairy herd was distributed to county agricultural agents and members of Dairy Fieldmen's Association. Special attention was called to importance of silage in ration.

Outlook for feed throughout State is good and milk production increasing. In most fluid milk markets receipts of milk are larger than in same months last year. Serious labor shortage may work to dairymen's disadvantage during harvesting season and affect milk production during fall and winter, when insufficient feed will have been stored.

Meetings were held in five counties to develop organized breeding programs and promote better methods of dairy management in interest of high milk production. Definite programs were drafted for teaching quality milk production to 4-H Club members and prospective home demonstration agents and home-economics teachers for 4-H short course at V. P. I.

Much time was devoted to procuring and training of dairy herd-improvement association supervisors.

To distribute superior registered dairy cattle, two Jersey bull and heifer sales and one Guernsey consignment sale were held in State. Many farmers were thus enabled to get foundation females and new herd sires.

Dairymen who used forced-ventilation system of curing hay during past year are being encouraged to cure more hay in this manner.

Poultry.- Specialists held training meetings for poultry leaders selected by each of home demonstration clubs in 40 counties. County farm and home agents of 20 other counties attended meeting where poultry production and marketing problems were discussed. Total of 52 meetings, attended by 433 leaders and agents, were held during May.

Field crops.- Information was distributed on side-dressing corn with quickly available nitrogen, burning and fertilizing pastures, importance of sowing seed in 1944, corn cultivations, and high-quality hay.

Food for Victory letter on growing soybeans for oil was sent to county agents, professional workers, and community and neighborhood leaders. Radio talks on production of soys for oil were presented on Harrisonburg and Roanoke stations. Letter was sent to about 1,700 fertilizer agents and dealers, requesting assistance in increasing acreage of soybeans for oil.

Animal husbandry.- County agents of 20 counties were aided in selection of purebred pigs for organized 4-H breeding-pig projects. Specialists aided in inspection of animals for purebred ram, cattle, and hog sales, and assisted at three cattle sales. Some aid was given in marketing wool under Government plan. Information was given out on control of parasites of hogs and sheep, and on marketing lambs at heavier weights.

At fat-cattle show in Richmond, 35 4-H calves were sold at average price of \$23.33 a hundredweight. champion sold for \$56. Open classes had 118 fat cattle. At Salem show 58 4-H calves sold at average price of \$24.20 a hundredweight, champion going at \$53.50. These two shows had 93 4-H calves, as compared with 42 last year.

Negro extension activities.- Wartime activities took upward trend in both adult and 4-H work. County farmers' conferences were held, and work was done on immunizing hogs to prevent cholera. 4-H Clubs stressed Victory club gardens, culling demonstrations, and increased enrollment.

In Prince Edward County, 50 farm people went to annual county farmers' conference in spite of busy season and poor transportation. County farmers' conference in Sussex County was attended by 450 farm people, who were told how to handle nutrition program on their own farms.

Farm labor conference at Virginia State College was attended by State agent, Director Hutcheson, and State labor supervisor. Ways and means of assisting farmers with labor problems were discussed.

In Amelia County, Mannboro community took step toward growing cash crop other than tobacco. Group of farmers decided to raise sweetpotatoes for market. Each member will help finance conversion of flue tobacco barn into potato and curing house.

Nansemond County advisory board is planning larger and better summer canning center. Workers will purchase bean and pea huller at \$325; also 6,000 tin cans for summer canning.

Lunenburg County farmers are having hogs treated now instead of waiting for hog-killing time. On 23 farms total of 96 hogs and 63 pigs were treated for cholera. In Greenville County, 311 hogs on 35 farms were given double treatment for prevention of cholera. Total of 569 hogs were treated in Sussex; 1,382 in Southampton.

Twelve method demonstrations on top-dressing wheat were given by farm agent in Campbell County. Negro farmers there used more than 50 tons of nitrate of soda on wheat crop, applying from 150 to 200 pounds an acre.